

**LITTLE HINGES TO  
GREAT DOORS,  
AND OTHER TALES**

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Little Hinges to Great Doors, and Other Tales by F. S. D. Ames

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**F. S. D. AMES**

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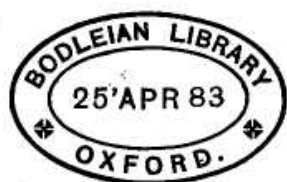
And other Tales.

By F. S. D. AMES,  
AUTHOR OF 'MARION HOWARD,' Etc.

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1883.

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## PREFACE.

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WE sincerely hope that the appetite of the public for books of this character may continue to grow. Time was, not so long ago, when there was a dearth of intelligent liveliness in English Catholic literature. The effort made by our Catholic publishers to supply the want has had its reward by increasing the demand. Books which, whilst they interest the imagination, also teach the doctrines and practices of the Church will surely find many readers.

The lowliest of principles, which, apprehended, has moved empires, is mysteriously breathed into the minds of men. By what means it reaches this or that mind it is difficult to say; but when the principles of supernatural life are quickening the mind and heart of an intelligent writer, it may well be that the force working so powerfully within should penetrate and influence the quiescent minds of the multitude. So we may hope that these histories

of the working of the little seeds of the Gospel in the human heart may stir many young men and women to aspirations above the dead level of ordinary life. Simple as these little histories are, some are true biographies, and tell, what is always interesting to us, the experiences of others' hearts. They show us how in them the principles of Faith, Hope, and Charity struggle triumphantly against the apparently overwhelming weight of worldly influence.

E. L.



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# LITTLE HINGES TO GREAT DOORS

Or 'Es Ore Infantium.'

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## CHAPTER I.

### ALL ROUND THE FIRE.

IT was an evening in the Christmas week, and a very dismal-looking evening it was too—at least, so thought Miss Margaret Myddleton, otherwise Daisy, as she stood looking out into the twilight through the dining-room window of a pretty house in a West-end suburb of London. Snow had fallen during the day—pretty, white, virgin snow—but it had long since been trodden by hundreds of footsteps into a black unctuous mess, that coated the pavements, and boots of the passers-by, penetrating their soles and worn-out 'uppers' with a spiteful diligence, and sending oftentimes a pang to the very hearts of the wearers. Nor was this all; for overhead there hung, extended like a funereal pall, a yellow, murky, frosty fog that looked almost substantial enough to be cut with a knife or